

S-480
James J. Brittingham House
Freemantown
Private

c. 1920

Historically identified as the James J. Brittingham house, this two-and-a-half story cross gabled frame dwelling is estimated to date around 1920 and reflects the continued use of this traditional vernacular house form well into the twentieth century. A concrete block foundation supports the single-pile frame dwelling along with a two-story kitchen wing to the rear. Single-pane sash windows light the first and second floors, and a continuous boxed cornice with extended eaves trims the perimeter of the roof.

The house stands on the western side of the community of Freemantown, a historic black village that borders the eastern edge of Crisfield. The land on which this house was built belonged to Sabra Brittingham during the late nineteenth century and first decades of the twentieth century. Prior to her death in 1919 the lot was unimproved. Due to the architectural details of the house, it is estimated that construction took place shortly following her death. The property remained in Brittingham family hands until 1941.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: JAMES J. BRITTINGHAM HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: S-480

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):
Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. S-480

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JAMES J. BRITTINGHAM HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 26580 Main Street Extended ☐ not for publication

city, town Crisfield ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Beatrice Johnson
% Geraldine Jackson

street & number 26 Somers Cove Apartments telephone no.:

city, town Crisfield state and zip code Maryland 21817

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber 260

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 476

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-480

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The James J. Brittingham house is 26580 Main Street Extended in the historic black community of Freemantown, in the vicinity of Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame house faces south with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Estimated to date around 1920, this two-and-a-half story, three-bay, center hall/single-pile frame house is supported on a low concrete block foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Extending to the north (rear) is a two-story, two-bay by one-room service wing.

The south (main) facade is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center entrance sheltered by a single-bay gable roofed stoop. The door is partially glazed. Flanking the entrance bay are single-pane sash windows. The second floor is lighted by three evenly spaced single-pane sash windows, and a centered cross gable is pierced by a small four-pane window. The perimeter of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice. A narrow brick chimney stack protrudes through the roof flanking the center hall.

Each gable end is marked by a single one-over-one sash window on each floor. The gable end of the roof is finished with an extended eave and short returns are found at the base.

The two-story, one-room plan kitchen wing extends southward to form a tee-plan for the entire house. Single-pane sash windows light the first and second floors, and an interior end brick chimney protrudes through the gable end.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-480

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
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check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Historically identified as the James J. Brittingham house, this two-and-a-half story cross gabled frame dwelling is estimated to date around 1920 and reflects the continued use of this traditional vernacular house form well into the twentieth century. A concrete block foundation supports the single-pile frame dwelling along with a two-story kitchen wing to the rear. Single-pane sash windows light the first and second floors, and a continuous boxed cornice with extended eaves trims the perimeter of the roof.

The house stands on the western side of the community of Freemantown, a historic black village that borders the eastern edge of Crisfield. The land on which this house was built belonged to Sabra Brittingham during the late nineteenth century and first decades of the twentieth century. Prior to her death in 1919 the lot was unimproved. (Somerset County Land Record, 92/171) Due to the architectural details of the house, it is estimated that construction took place shortly following her death. The property remained in Brittingham family hands until 1941.(Somerset County Land Record, BLB 118/74)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-480

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 6/27/1995

street & number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410- 651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

S-480

JAMES J. BRITTINGHAM HOUSE
26580 Main Street Extended
Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County, Maryland
Chain of title

BLB 145/269 William E. Ward
 Theodosia Ward

to

8/12/1948 Walter Jones

BLB 118/74 Carlos Bozman, Treasurer

to

1/10/1941 William E. Ward

WJS 92/168 James J. Brittingham, Trustee

to

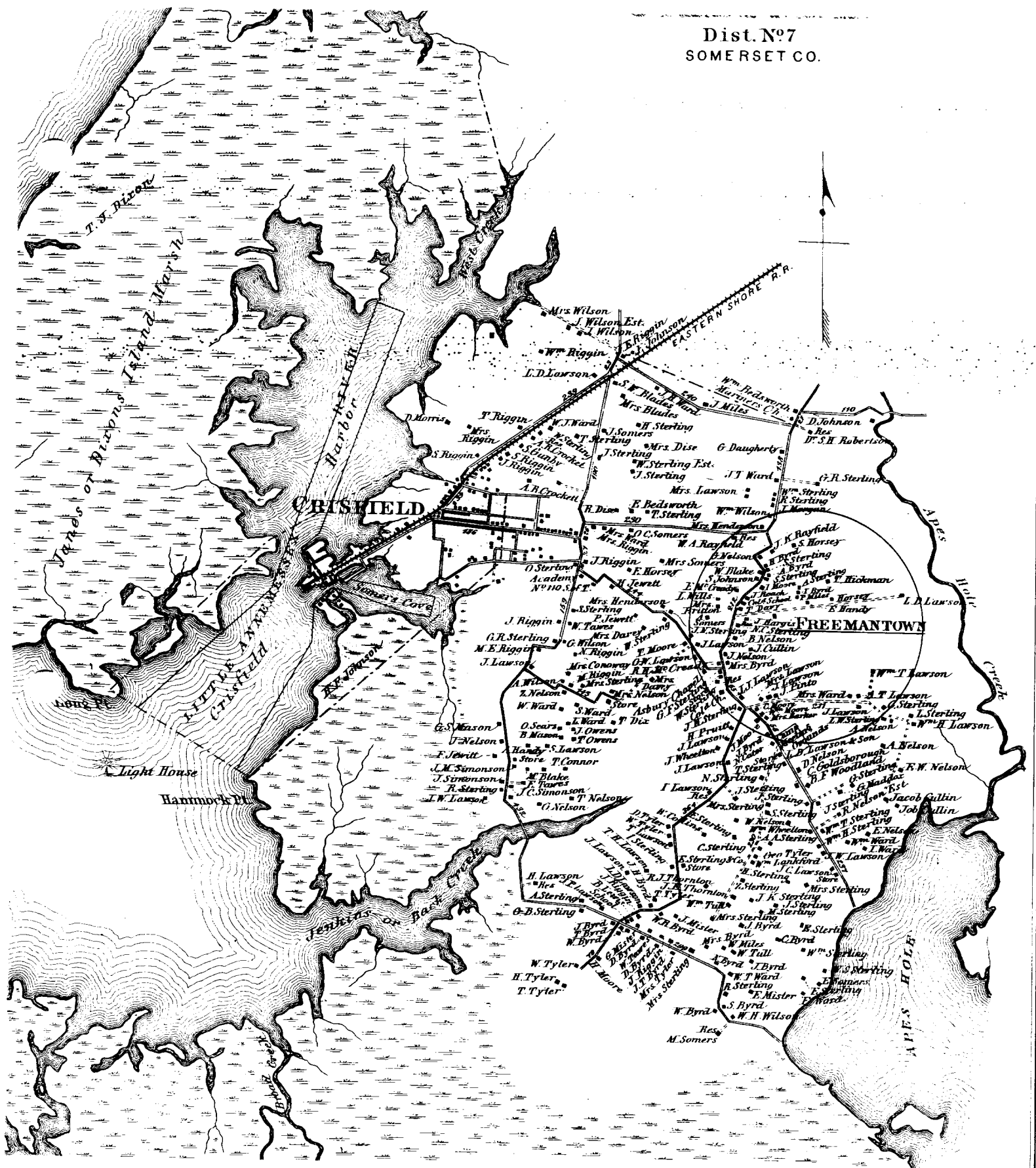
6/30/1925 Sally S. Byrd
 Nancy D. Byrd
 \$550.00

Last Will and Testament of Sabra Brittingham

to

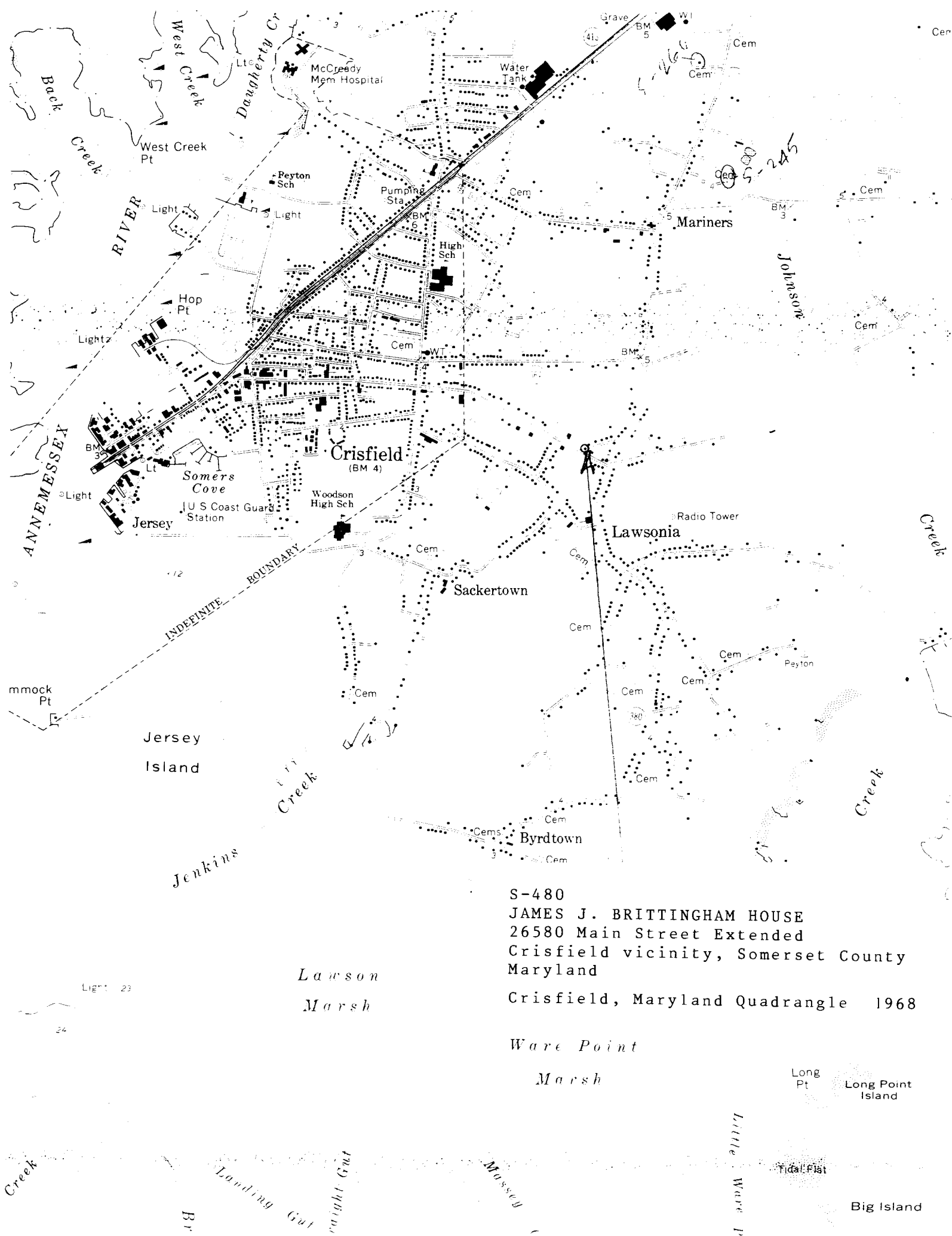
1/14/1915 James J. Brittingham
Proved Ella Brittingham
8/26/1919 Lizzie Byrd
 Leah Bryd
 Margaret Cotman
 Charles Cotman et al.

Plat recorded 92/171 Shows no house
9/15/1920



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JAMES J. BRITTINGHAM HOUSE
Freemantown, Crisfield vicinity
Somerset County, Maryland

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877



S-480
JAMES J. BRITTINGHAM HOUSE
26580 Main Street Extended
Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County
Maryland
Crisfield, Maryland Quadrangle 1968

Ware Point
Marsh

Long Pt
Long Point Island

Tidal Flat

Big Island



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JAMES L. PRITTINGHAM (HOUSE)
CRISTFIELD VICINITY; FORTY-ONE C. 111
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

6/95, PAUL TOWNE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
NEG. / MID. HISTORICAL TRUST



S-480

James S. Buchanan House
Carpenter's workshop, Somerset Co., Md
Since excavated

6/95, Dave Brown, Pittsburgh
has found this old house

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